AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 and ending on page 4, line 18 as follows:

A2

As shown in FIG. 2, during daytime photography, the light from the sun S enters the interior of the camera as harmful external light, i.e., stray light, from the finder eyepiece 9, as indicated by the arrow b. During photography, since the semi-transparent mirror 2 is set at the up position, after the stray light is transmitted through the semi-transparent mirror 2, this light is reflected by the interior wall surface of the camera body 20 and attains the solid state image sensing element 3. Accordingly, this stray light adversely affects the photographed image as ghost and flare, and is the cause of exposure error. Particularly during photography using the self timer, or during photography while viewing a liquid crystal display [[5]] 19 provided on the back of the camera body, the stray light phenomenon becomes marked because the face of the photographer is separated from the finder eyepiece 9 such that the face of the photographer no longer covers the eyepiece 9.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 11 and ending on page 6, line 19 as follows:

A3

According to this construction, since the light splitting means blocks the light when the light splitting means is moved to the retracted position during photography, external light entering from the finder eyepiece is ~~preventing~~ prevented from advancing further into the interior of the camera by the light splitting means. As a result, the external light cannot advance to the image sensing element, thereby preventing the generation of ghosts and flare.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 24 and ending on page 9, line 15 as follows:

In the following description, like parts are designated by like reference numbers throughout the several drawings.

FIG. 1 is a cross section view of the essential part of a conventional digital camera;

FIG. 2 is a cross section view of the essential part of the conventional digital camera of FIG. 1 illustrating the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror ~~of FIG. 1~~ in the retracted state;

FIG. 3 is a cross section view of the essential part of an embodiment of the digital camera of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a cross section view of the essential part of the embodiment of the digital camera of FIG. 3 illustrating the liquid crystal[[;]] semi-transparent mirror ~~of FIG. 3~~ in the retracted state;

FIG. 5 is a block circuit diagram of an embodiment of the digital camera of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a cross section view of the essential part of another embodiment of the digital camera of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a cross section view of the essential part of the embodiment of the digital camera of FIG. 6 illustrating the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror ~~of FIG. 6~~ in the retracted state;

FIG. 8 is a flow chart during normal photography of the embodiment of the digital camera of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a flow chart of image display when the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror is at the retracted position in embodiment of the digital camera of the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a flow chart of continuous photography in the embodiment of the digital camera of the present invention;

FIG. 11 is a flow chart of automatic return of the semi-transparent mirror to a non-display state after the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror displays an image for a specific time; and

FIG. 12 is a flow chart the semi-transparent mirror to the non-display state by a return switch when the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror displays an image in embodiment of the digital camera of the present invention.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 7 and ending on page 16, line 25 as follows:

Before sensing an image, the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 is maintained inclined 45° relative to the optical axis at the light splitting position as shown in FIG. 3. The liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 comprising a liquid crystal plate enters a semi-transparent state by individually controlling the voltage applied to each pixel, and approximately one half of the incidence light [[ix]] is transmitted and approximately one half of the remaining light is reflected as in a conventional semi-transparent mirror. That is, approximately one half of the light passing through the taking lens 1 is transmitted through the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 and is directed onto the solid state image sensing element 3. The remaining one half light is reflected upward by the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22, and this reflected light is reflected by a finder mirror 15, passes through the finder lens 4, and is directed to the finder eyepiece 9.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 21 and ending on page 21, line 3 as follows:

In the second photographic mode, a digital camera is used which has a construction largely similar to that used in the first photographic mode, although image data [[fro]] from the image sensing element 3 are displayed on the liquid crystal plate. At this time the liquid crystal plate may use a TN-type liquid crystal or TFT-type liquid crystal, and may be a black and white display or a color display.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 5 and ending on page 24, line 13 as follows:

FIG. 10 is a flow chart of a mode for continuous photography and displaying an image on the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 set at the retracted position. First, the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 is set at the light splitting position shown in FIG. 3, and after the switch Sc is set to ON to set the continuous photo mode as preparation for photography, the number of continuous photographs is set. When the shutter button is pressed halfway, the switch S1 is closed, light from the taking lens 1 is photoelectrically converted by the image sensing element 3, and image data are formed by the image processing circuit 6. The photographic conditions are set based on the image data. Then, the switch S2 is closed when the shutter button is fully pressed, the camera enters the photographic mode, and the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 is moved to the retracted position as shown in FIG. 4 (#140). Directly thereafter, the image from the taking lens 1 cannot be viewed from the finder, the liquid crystal drive circuit 11 is actuated by a signal from the microcomputer 10, and the image data are displayed on the liquid crystal plate of the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 (#142). At this time the same image as confirmed on the finder is displayed on the back liquid crystal display 19 provided on the back of the camera body 20 by the image data from the image sensing element 3. Then, the photographic operation is executed (#144), and a determination is made as to whether or not the set specified number of photographs have been taken (#146). If the specified number of photographs have not been taken, continuous photography continues with the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 maintained in the retracted position until the specified number of photographs have been taken. Alternately, in step #146, the continuous photographing may execute as long as switch S2 is closed instead of based on the specified number of photographs having been taken.

A7 cont

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 14 and ending on page 26, line 9 as follows:

When continuous photography ends, the display of the image is erased by a signal from the microcomputer 10, and the liquid crystal drive circuit is actuated to set the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 in the semi-transparent/semi-reflective state (#148). That is, the display of the image occurs for a short time in accordance with the number of continuous photographs from after the mirror pops up until the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 returns to the light splitting position. Thereafter, the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 is again maintained at the light splitting position (mirror down position) inclined 45° relative to the optical axis by the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror drive means 25 as shown in FIG. 3 (#150). In the continuous photographic mode, continuous photography is executed with the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 maintained at the retracted position by the liquid crystal mirror drive means 25. Accordingly, high speed continuous photography is possible because the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 does not move physically during continuous photography compared to when the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 moves reciprocatingly between the light splitting position and the retracted position during continuous photography, thereby improving the reliability of the continuous photography system, and reducing the power consumption. Furthermore, the desirability of the photographic image with regard to smearing, luminance, color, focus and the like can be confirmed through the finder. As a result, since unnecessary images are not photographed, photo errors are reduced, and image storage memory is conserved. Furthermore, since the image can be confirmed by peering into the finder alone for both preliminary photography and main photography, moving the line of sight relative to the finder and the back liquid crystal display 19 before and after photography becomes unnecessary, and makes the photographic operation extremely comfortable. In addition, when the display to the liquid crystal is continuously switched in conjunction with continuous photography, the object image can be continuously confirmed in the

A7 cont.

finder since the object image to be photographed is displayed. ~~And in step #146, the continuous photography may execute among the switch S2 is closed instead of the determination of taken number of photographs.~~

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 11 and ending on page 31, line 9 as follows:

A8 Cont

FIG. 12 is a flow chart [[is]] of the mode for displaying a main photographic image on the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 set at the retracted position, and during this display time returning to the non-display state by pressing the return switch S1. First, the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 is set at the light splitting position shown in FIG. 3. The switch S1 is closed when the shutter button is pressed halfway, the light directed to the image sensing element 3 is photoelectrically converted, and image data are formed by the image processing circuit 6. The photographic conditions are set based on the image data. Then, the switch S2 is closed when the shutter button is fully pressed, the camera enters the main photographic mode, and the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 is moved to the retracted position as shown in FIG. 4 (#180). Directly thereafter, the image from the taking lens 1 cannot be viewed from the finder, the liquid crystal drive circuit 11 is actuated by a signal from the microcomputer 10, and the image data are displayed on the liquid crystal plate of the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 (#182). At this time the same image as confirmed on the finder is displayed on the back liquid crystal display 19 provided on the back of the camera body 20 by the image data from the image sensing element 3. When main photography (#184) ends, the photographed image is displayed on the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 (#186). Then a determination is made as to whether or not the return switch S1 has been pressed (#188). If the return switch S1 has not been pressed, a check is made to determine whether or not the main photographic image has been displayed the specified time (#189). Since the display continues if the return switch S1 is not pressed, the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 is forcibly returned when the specified time (the specified

time may be set in the camera beforehand, or may be set by the photographer) has elapsed. If the specified time has not elapsed, the main photography image is displayed on the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22. If the specified time has elapsed, the photographic image displayed on the liquid crystal semi-transparent mirror 22 is discontinued, and the process advances to the next step. However, if the photographer presses the return switch S1 during image display, the process advances to the next step. At this time the same image as confirmed on the finder is displayed on the back liquid crystal display 19 provided on the back of the camera body 20 by the image data from the image sensing element 3.